

CONSTABLE *May Walker*

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HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS**

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CONSTABLE MAY WALKER'S PRECINCT 7 NEWSLETTER



Volume 22

Working With Citizens To Create Safer Neighborhoods And Communities



Be Aware! Be Alert! Be Careful!



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FROM THE DESK OF THE CONSTABLE



Each day we turn on our televisions we are bombarded with news of unlawful activity and the sad images of the innocent casualties left in its wake. However, there are millions of victims who we never hear about on the news and thousands of criminals who are invading homes and destroying lives without even stepping foot inside. These victims are individuals who have had their identities stolen, credit cards compromised, or reputations destroyed by high tech criminals referred to as hackers.

I do not pretend to be an expert when it comes to computers and surfing the web, for information about internet safety I rely on advice from the best, the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation).

Internet Crime Prevention Tips

The FBI reminds shoppers to beware of cyber criminals and their aggressive and creative ways to steal money and personal information.

Based on the latest scams detailed on the FBI's website, when making purchases on the internet:

- Always use a legitimate payment service to protect purchases.
- The safest way to purchase gift cards is directly from the merchant or authorized retail merchant.
- Be leery of e-mails or text messages you receive indicating a problem or question regarding your financial accounts.
- Consumers are encouraged to beware of bargain e-mails advertising one day only promotions for recognized brands or websites.

Preventing Computer Intrusions

- Keep Your Firewall Turned On: A firewall helps protect your computer from hackers who might try to gain access to crash it, delete information, or even steal passwords or other sensitive information.
- Install or Update Your Antivirus Software: Antivirus software is designed to prevent malicious software programs from embedding on your computer.
- Install or Update Your Anti-spyware Technology: Spyware is just what it sounds like—software that is surreptitiously installed on your computer to let others peer into your activities on the computer.

**Be Aware! Be Alert!
Be Careful!**

Constable May Walker's Law Enforcement Scholarship Golf Classic

Constable May Walker hit a "hole in one" with the success of the 2014 Law Enforcement Scholarship Golf Classic. The event was held at the beautiful Wildcat Golf Club.

The proceeds of this tournament help underwrite a four year college scholarship that Constable Walker currently provides to Micaela Gilbert who is a student at Texas A&M University – Commerce. Micaela is the daughter of Precint 7 Sgt. Deretta Griffin who recently, lost her life battling a prolonged illness. Constable May Walker's Scholarship Program helps provide some of the financial support for school that Micaela lost with the sad and untimely death of her mother.

Special thanks to contributors and loyal supporters:

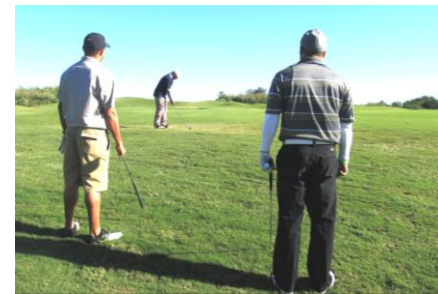
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The Woods Law Firm, P.C.

For information on how you can support or participate in the 2015 Law Enforcement Scholarship Golf Classic, please contact event organizer:

Pamela Greenwood
PH 713.274.3518
EMAIL
pamela.greenwood@cn7.hctx.net



Tournament attendees, volunteers, and participants wore pink in support of Breast Cancer Awareness





SGT. GRANT TALKS BULLYING

Over the summer Precinct Seven's Sergeant Marcus Grant spoke with children from Shape Community Center about the harsh reality of bullying. Child bullying has existed in neighborhoods and schools for centuries. However, in this day and age, whether it is verbal, physical, or cyber bullying all children and parents have reasons to be concerned.

Recent statistics reveal that bullying is a crime that is not going away anytime soon. According to Sgt. Grant, there are about 160,000 children who miss school each day out of fear of being bullied.

With attempts of bringing this number down and preventing further cases, Grant addressed the issues. He gave tips, treats, and techniques to the kids. Sgt. Grant's objective was to teach the students how to handle dealing with a bully, how to avoid being bullied, and how to protect a friend from a bully. "It (bullying) can really ruin lives, I just encourage them to realize what they're saying and doing," stated Sergeant Grant. Do something unexpected—laugh, walk away.

Steps Students Can Take to Protect Themselves Against Being Bullied

Do not react by crying, showing fear or anger because this only encourages the bully to pick on you again.

Remain calm and hold your head high.

Look the bully in the eye and say "No! Leave me alone!" Say it strong, loud, and over and over to attract attention.

Use humor—if a bully makes fun of a physical characteristic, just smile and agree "Yes, I do talk funny." Then walk away. Humor takes the power away from the bully and shows you are in control.

Always report the bullying to a trusted adult. If you do not report threats and assaults, a bully will often become more and more aggressive.



Duties and Responsibilities of Harris County Precinct 7

Protective Order

The **Protective Order** is one of the many types of papers served by law enforcement officials of Harris County Constable Precinct Seven.

A protective order is a court order that is meant to protect an individual from harassment or from someone who has been violent or who has threatened violence. If there is a clear and present danger of violence and immediate protection is needed, a judge may issue a temporary order called a "**Temporary Ex Parte Protective Order**" without bond, notice, or hearing.

It is the responsibility of the constable, sheriff, or chief of police to provide a law enforcement officer to serve this order to the respondent while providing protection to the plaintiff especially if they share a residence. If the respondent refuses to vacate the residence, the respondent will be arrested for violating the Court's Order.

If you are experiencing harassment or violence and need information on where to get help or advice; contact Harris County Constable May Walker Precinct 7 Crime Victims' Services Unit or Domestic Violence Program.

For Help or Info Contact:

PCT 7 Domestic Violence Deputy M. Bilbo • PH 713.274.3519
PCT 7 Crime Victims Assistance Coordinator V. Gatson • PH 713.274.3521



Wreck



One Text or Call Could Wreck it All

Distracted driving is a dangerous epidemic on America's roadways. In 2012 alone, 3,328 were killed in distracted driving crashes. An estimated 421,000 people were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving a distracted driver.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation 71% of teens and young people say they have composed/sent SMS messages while driving and 78% have read an SMS message while driving.

While driving, focus on the road. Distraction.gov is your resource for learning more about distracted driving. Get the facts, get involved, and help us keep America's roadways safe.

SGT. DELAROSA EXPLAINS EVICTION PROCESS



Eviction of Tenants in Texas

The eviction process begins when a property owner/manager files a vacate notice. There are several steps in the eviction procedure -- outlined below:

Landlord must first serve a tenant with a Notice to Vacate.

The vacate notice can be a 3-day notice for non-payment of rent if there is a rental agreement stating a particular required rent amount due or a 30-day notice for owner desires possession if the owner just desires to regain possession of their property. Once the time denoted by the vacate notice has expired the owner/manager must then file a forcible eviction through the Justice of the Peace courts.

Once the time denoted by the vacate notice has expired the owner/manager must then file a forcible eviction through the Justice of the Peace Courts. The tenant will then be served either personally or by judge's approval with a posting to the door providing a court date.

On the court date the judge will render a ruling, if the ruling is in favor of the owner/manager the judge will give a set amount of time when the owner/manager can file the final step of the eviction which is the Writ of Possession.

When the Writ of Possession is received by the Constables office the deputy will first post a 24 hour notice on the property. After 24 hours the deputy will return to see if the tenant is attempting to move from the premises. If the tenant moves on their own, the property (place of dwelling) is turned over to the owner/manager. If the tenant does not willingly vacate the premises, then a deputy will supervise the removal of the tenants belongings to a nearby location not blocking a public roadway or sidewalk as per Texas Property Code 24.0061 Section D and then turn the property (place of dwelling) over to the owner/manager.

Driver Safety Tips

Dealing With Aggressive Driving

With the number of drivers on Houston area streets and highways steadily increasing, each time you hit the road you are destined to encounter someone driving aggressively. Unfortunately, you have no control of another driver's behavior, you only have control over your own. That is why it is best, if you encounter an aggressive driver, just back off, take a deep breath, remain calm, and let it go.

Identifying Aggressive Drivers or Determining if You are One



Aggressive driving can often lead to accidents or incidents of road rage. Aggressive drivers routinely:

- Tailgate
- Accelerate in a hostile manner
- Cut other drivers off
- Weave in and out of traffic
- Use their horn excessively
- Flash their headlights
- Change lanes quickly and often
- Make rude hand gestures to other drivers
- Throw things or worse, shoot at other vehicles

If you encounter an aggressive driver, **AAA Texas** suggests you follow these guidelines:

- Don't engage in their aggressive behavior. Prevent a potential incident or crash by refusing to play into their anger.
- If another driver tries to pick a fight, steer clear and give them lots of room.
- Do not, under any circumstances, pull off to the side of the road and try to settle things face to face.
- If an angry motorist tries to get your attention, avoid making eye contact. Engaging with him or her could turn an impersonal encounter into a duel.
- If you think another driver is following you or trying to pick a fight, call the police on your cell phone.
- Drive to a place where there are lots of people, such as a police or fire station, a convenience store, or a shopping center, etc. This will often discourage the would-be aggressor from following you.
- Don't get out of your car.
- Don't go home until you're sure the aggressor is gone and it's safe.
- Adjust Your Attitude
- Make your trip safer by allowing extra time to get to your destination and by listening to relaxing music or books on tape.
- Put yourself in the other driver's frame of mind. Try to imagine why they're driving aggressively; maybe they have a personal issue. Whatever the reason, it has nothing to do with you personally.
- Finally, if you find yourself constantly angry in traffic, consider seeking professional help or counseling. Courses in anger management may help you from becoming an angry, overly aggressive driver.



Enforce Stranger Danger Every Day, Not Just on Halloween

More and more parents are choosing the safer option of taking their little trick-or-treaters to community events for Halloween instead of going door to door in their neighborhoods. Harris County Precinct 7 deputies have been participating in the Trunk or Treat program at the Houston Texans YMCA each year in support of this trend. Halloween is just one day out of the year but the threat of danger never ends.

Many parents fear that having tough conversations with children about societal ills too soon, causes them to lose the carefree spirit associated with childhood. However, the very thing that parents are trying to protect is exactly what child predators want to steal, innocence.

In order to keep children safe, parents should:

- ❖ Be aware of possible predators. Typical signs are: someone who seems too good to be true, who offers extensive help to your family, who knows too much about your kids or kids in general, especially if they do not have children of their own. You should know all adults who you allow to have contact with your child.
- ❖ Talk to children about pedophiles as soon as they understand what you mean. As early as 3-5 years old, when kids begin to interact with the world, they face potential victimization.
- ❖ Remind children to never trust a stranger. Predators do not necessarily look scary. A dangerous person could look like the person next door, or even be someone they know.

For a more detailed list of child safety tips visit the National Crime Prevention Council website <http://www.ncpc.org/>



What To Do If Stopped By Police Public Safety and Awareness



The following information will explain what to expect if a police officer stops you for questioning or pulls you over for a traffic stop and also provide some guidelines on how to respond to either situation. However, this is not a legal advisory.

What are some reasons police might stop me?

Generally, because you:

- Are in the area where a crime just occurred
- Witness a crime
- Fit the description of a suspect
- Have been pointed out as a suspect
- Appear to need assistance
- Violate a law

What should I consider if I am stopped?

- Officers may not be stopping you for the same reason you think
- Over-reaction and/or lack of cooperation will complicate the situation
- Running from the police or fleeing the scene is as good as an admission of guilt; **DO NOT RUN**
- Police are trained to remain in a position that will enhance officer safety
- Actions and communications are not intended to offend you

What actions should I take if I am approached by a police officer?

- Follow the officer's instructions
- Keep your hands clearly visible
- Make slow and deliberate movements
- If a weapon is present:
 1. Verbally inform the officer of its exact location
 2. Do not make any gestures towards the weapon
 3. State whether you possess a concealed handgun permit
 4. Wait for specific instructions before making any movements
 5. Remain calm and do not become argumentative

* Cooperation can greatly reduce the time you are detained

What actions should I take if I am in a vehicle that is approached by a police officer?

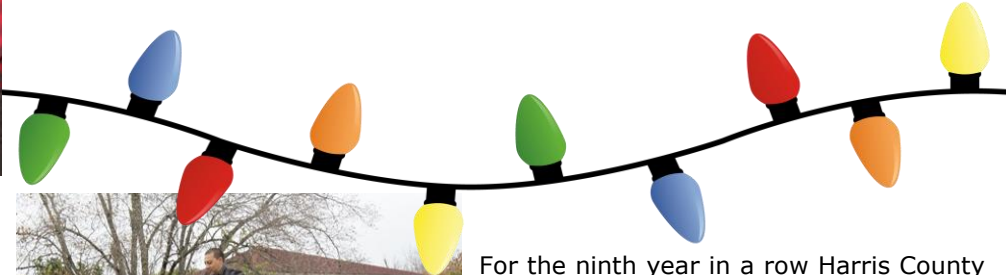
- Follow the officer's instructions
- Remain seated in the vehicle; do not get out unless instructed to do so
- Keep your hands visible
- Turn on the interior light when it's dark outside
- Produce your driver's license, proof of insurance and vehicle registration upon request
- Do not reach for anything unless directed to do so by the officer

When can I be searched by a police officer?

- When arrested
- When a warrant exists
- When probable cause for an arrest exists
- When consent is granted

*Be aware that if you are suspected of being armed, the police officer is allowed to frisk you for weapons to ensure the safety of everyone present.

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH



For the ninth year in a row Harris County Precinct 7 Deputies and the group of clergymen, Ministers Supporting Precinct 7, distribute gift boxes overflowing with food and provide toys to the children of area families in need. The five (5) financially disadvantaged families were identified and selected based on recommendations from Child Protective Services and the Precinct 7 Crime Victim's Assistance Program.

The families benefiting from the Precinct 7 Christmas Outreach Program are struggling to make ends meet. It is difficult for them to provide their children with the most basic of necessities, let alone toys for Christmas.

This is truly a labor of love for Constable May Walker, her staff, and the Ministers Supporting Precinct 7. Constable Walker encourages, "It is important for those who have to open their hearts and give to those who don't have as much."



PROTECTING YOUR HOME



Taking the following steps will make your home less appealing to criminals and more secure for you and your family:

- Ensure all doors and windows have locks in working condition. Protect your house from prying eyes by using curtains or drapes.
- Secure doors and windows at all times if you are home or away. The majority of would-be thieves enter homes through open windows or doors, only one in four break-ins involve forced entry.
- Make it a habit to check that all doors and windows are locked at night before going to sleep. Install outside lights. Use motion detectors wherever possible. The dark of night is a most ready camouflage for robbers and other criminals.
- Install outside lights. Use motion detectors wherever possible. Leave lights on inside your house when you go out for the evening.
- Keep bushes and plants trimmed that make it easy for burglars to hide. Prune lower tree limbs – don't provide the thief with a natural ladder into second floor windows.
- Keep the view to your house open – criminals love to hide behind tall fences or overgrown bushes while breaking into your home.
- Install a security system.
- If you and your family are going on a vacation, ask a neighbor to watch your home, or ask a relative to stay in your home while you are away. An empty house is a prime target for criminals.

Be Aware! Be Alert! Be Careful!

Precinct 7 Promotions

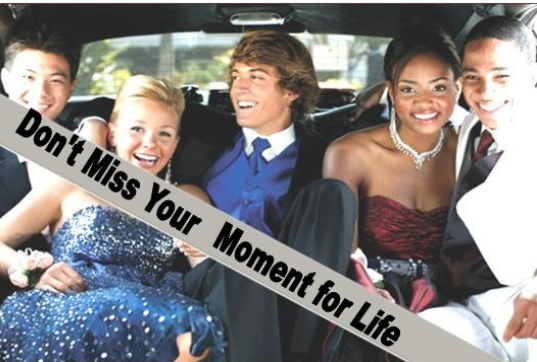


Congratulations and Best Wishes to Floyd Davis for being promoted from Toll Road Deputy to Toll Road Sergeant, Morning Shift



Congratulations and Best Wishes to Russell Simms for being promoted from Patrol Deputy to Toll Road Sergeant, Night Shift

Buckle Up Teen Drivers!



Buckle Up!

☐ **Seat Belts Save Lives!**

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teens in every state. From 2003 – 2008, **2,600** 16 to 20 year olds were killed in **Texas**. Of those, **52%** were not buckled.

Teens need to recognize that wearing a seat belt is the **absolute best way** to protect themselves and their passengers from severe injury or death in the event of a motor vehicle crash.

During a crash, being buckled up helps keep you safe and secure inside your vehicle, whereas being completely thrown out of a vehicle is almost always deadly.

In 2009, the use of seat belts in passenger vehicles saved more than 13,000 lives nationwide. In **Texas** alone, seat belts saved **1,407** lives. **Texas'** goal is simple: to prevent tragic and untimely deaths of teens in our state by convincing both drivers and passengers to buckle up.



THANKSGIVING OUTREACH



Constable May Walker and Ministers Supporting Precinct 7 hosted their 10th Annual Thanksgiving Outreach Program, Tuesday, November 25, 2014. One-hundred seventy (170) area senior citizens were given free turkeys thanks to generous contributions from the Precinct 7 Constable, her staff, and community partners. The Houston Food Bank was also on site providing approximately 10,000 lbs. of fresh fruits and vegetables to the seniors, as well.

This outreach effort is meant to benefit Harris County Precinct 7 residents who are at least 65-years old and living on fixed incomes.

Other agencies participating in this event include: Ministers Supporting Precinct 7, City of Houston Area Agency on Aging, and the Texans YMCA. These participants will also provide the seniors with other free items; as well as, valuable and pertinent information.

For more information about the Precinct 7 Thanksgiving Outreach Program and to find out if you qualify, call 713-274-3518.



Standing Against Domestic Violence

The month of October has been designated as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and October 20th - 24th was Take Action Week. Dozens joined the Harris County Precinct 7 Domestic Violence Program Deputy, Monica Bilbo and Victims Services Unit Coordinator, Venita Gatson in front of the Precinct 7 main office to help them "Take Action Against Domestic Violence".

The event began with an impassioned speech from Deputy Bilbo. Bilbo stated, "Today, we are here to make some noise and raise awareness for something that has been kept quiet for far too long." She continued, "We want victims of Domestic Violence to know that by remaining silent they run the risk of losing their lives." Other speakers including former Houston City Council Member, Jolanda Jones, spoke openly of their experiences as victims of domestic abuse.

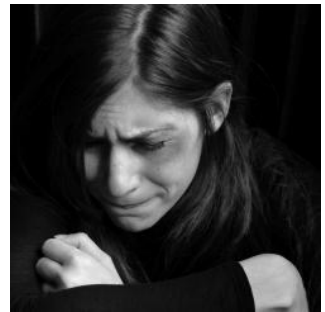
The event concluded after attendees released purple (the color of Domestic Violence Month) balloons, in order to raise awareness about the rising number of individuals experiencing domestic abuse and in memory of the victims who have lost their lives to it.

Domestic Violence in Harris County

Too often, victims of domestic violence suffer in silence out of fear or embarrassment. Many victims stay in bad situations that are destined only to get worse because of a lack of resources or insufficient knowledge of services available to help them. Harris County has the highest number of deaths in the state followed by Dallas, Tarrant, Bexar, El Paso and Hidalgo.

Some key statistics include:

- The victim's ages range from age 15 to 84
- Harris County had the highest number of deaths at 30
- 74% of the women were killed at home
- 60% were shot
- 17% were stabbed
- 11% were strangled
- 21 women had taken steps to leave
- 20 homicides within one to two days of a national holiday
- 15 bystanders or witnesses killed
- 4 bodies burned



Precinct 7 Domestic Violence Program

The Harris County Precinct 7 Domestic Violence Program is committed to assisting victims by:

- Providing victims assistance by filing temporary restraining orders, injunctions, and other protective orders.
- Accompanying victims/survivors to court when needed.
- Aiding battered victims and their children in developing a safety plan.
- Assisting and referring victims/survivors to the Precinct 7 Compensation Program for compensation application and processing.
- Providing medical advocacy for victims as needed.
- Assisting victims/survivors in obtaining emergency services (e.g. food, shelter, clothing, etc.)
- Coordinating with other area law enforcement agencies and Social Services agencies to make and receive referrals on the victims behalf.
- Conducting Crisis Counseling and related activities.
- Performing anti-domestic violence education seminars at schools and community events.
- Identifying, documenting and monitoring domestic violence victims to determine if re-victimization has occurred and determining if additional services are needed to help stabilize the life of the victims/survivors.

For Help or More Info Call: PCT 7 DV Deputy Bilbo • PH 713.274.3521



Precinct 7 Domestic Violence Program Deputy, Monica Bilbo



Domestic abuse survivor shares her story as her mother displays a picture of the baby she will never hold again.



Domestic Abuse Survivor - Former Houston City Council Member, Jolanda Jones

